

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly cancel claims 11, 13-15, 17 and 19, and rewrite Claims 7 and 8 as follows:

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A friction-grip fireplace tool, comprising:

a. a unary, v-shaped, flexible open-jawed mouth having a closed end defining an outer perimeter, and an open end defined by an inner perimeter, said inner perimeter comprised of:

i. a first straight portion having a first end, a second end, and a middle portion therebetween,

ii. a curved portion having a first end and a second end, the first end of the curved portion being connected to the second end of the first straight portion; and

iii. a second straight portion having a first end, a second end, and a middle portion therebetween, the first end of the second straight portion being connected to the second end of the curved portion,

said unary, v-shaped, flexible open-jawed mouth exhibiting a spring-like effect when the first straight portion and the second straight portion are urged apart;

b. friction ridges disposed on the middle portions of the first straight portion and second straight portion, spaced at intervals along ~~an entire length~~ of the middle portions ~~of the first straight portion and second straight portion~~ of the inner perimeter of said open-jawed mouth, said friction ridges creating a non-piercing friction effect upon an object disposed within the inner perimeter of the open end of said open-jawed mouth when the first straight portion and second straight portion are urged apart by said object;

c. an elongated connecting rod;

d. means of joining said connecting rod at its lower end to one portion of said open-jawed mouth such that the closed end of said open-jawed mouth is directed toward a user of said fireplace tool,

e. a hand grip; and

f. means of joining said hand grip to said connecting rod at its upper end,

whereby a user can grip said fireplace tool by said hand grip, and push said open-jawed mouth onto said ~~[[log]]~~ object, thus applying a progressively tightening gripping force upon said object ~~created by~~ via the combination of said spring-like effect and said non-piercing friction effect, enabling the user to lift, move, reposition and release said ~~[[log,]]~~ object without manipulating any moving parts.

8. (Previously Presented) The friction-grip fireplace tool of Claim 7, further including a wedge-shaped tip disposed ~~[[at]]~~ as an in-line extension of the first end of the first straight portion of said inner perimeter of the open-jawed mouth.

9. (Previously Presented) The friction grip fireplace tool of Claim 7, wherein said open-jawed mouth is made of steel.

10. (Previously Presented) The friction-grip fireplace tool of Claim 7, wherein said open-jawed mouth is made of iron.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The friction-grip fireplace tool of Claim 7, wherein said fireplace tool is constructed by joining together said open-jawed mouth, said elongated connecting rod, and said hand grip.

13-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The friction grip fireplace tool of Claim 7, wherein the means of joining said open-jawed mouth and said connecting rod is a threaded coupling.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The friction grip fireplace tool of Claim 7, wherein the means of joining said hand grip and said connecting rod is a threaded coupling.

19. (Cancelled)